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LETTER DATED 1 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 1 May 1998 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, enclosing an open letter from the joint meeting held on 30 April 1998 of the Revolution Command Council and the leadership of the Iraqi branch of the Arab Socialist Baath Party addressed to you and to the members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-12242 (E) 040598

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Annex

Letter dated 1 May 1998 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose an open letter from the joint meeting, held on 30 April 1998, of the Revolution Command Council and the leadership of the Iraqi branch of the Arab Socialist Baath Party, addressed to you and to the members of the Security Council. The meeting was held further to the review by the Security Council on 27 April 1998 of the sanctions regime against Iraq.

The fact that, after eight years, the sanctions against Iraq have not been lifted demonstrates the Security Council's lack of impartiality in dealing with this matter. The Security Council has failed to discharge its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations, whereas Iraq has satisfied all the requirements and conditions set forth in Security Council resolution 687 (1991), section C. The Security Council must now do its part, meeting its obligations towards Iraq by implementing resolution 687 (1991), paragraph 22, without further delay.

I should be grateful if you would apprise the members of the Security Council of the contents of this letter and have it circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

Enclosure

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

An open letter to the President and members of the Security Council:

"Go, both of you unto Pharaoh, Lo! he has transgressed the bounds."
(Qur'an 20:43)

Peace be upon those who are rightly guided!

Your institutions were established following the Second World War and the failure of the League of Nations to maintain international peace and security. This is the version of events that the so-called or self-styled great Powers presented and continue to propagate. These institutions attracted the attention of people throughout the world, because the Charter of the United Nations enshrined principles whose fundamental aim was said to be the creation of a world free from tyranny, hegemony and wars. The Security Council was accorded special powers so that it could help to achieve this. It is a well known fact that wars generally occur either because a nation feels that an unjust situation has become so intolerable that war is its only means of redress if that injustice is to cease, or, conversely, because a nation perceives or feels that it has enormous brute strength and that no one has sufficient strength to prevent it from achieving its goals, using some kind of armed force.

In the first instance, the Great and Wise God usually supports the oppressed nation, so long as it obeys the rules of fighting for a just cause. That nation is protected by God, the Merciful, the Compassionate, the Almighty, the King of Kings and the Knower of all Secrets.

In the second instance, the devil alone is the sponsor.

Iraq is the victim of an injustice which is unparalleled in the annals of history. It has been subjected to repeated acts of military aggression since November 1991, the most recent example being the third round of aggression in 1996. Since 1991, there has also been a whole series of threats, accompanied by military build-ups. For eight years, Iraq has suffered under sanctions of unparalleled immorality, imposed by persons whose consciences are dead. Let it be clear that Iraq has fought against injustice, tyranny and corruption, not just because it is a sincere and faithful nationalist, but also because it understood from the very beginning that the tyrannical obsession that took root in the mind of the American culprit after the international balance of power had been upset - for reasons that are well known - has left it incapable of reason or of understanding which is the right path to follow and how it should deal with the rest of the world. America has become intoxicated by an empty, blind, foolish and destructive sense of inebriation and a cruel belief in the importance of using force against the entire world. Its aim is to get everyone to kiss the hands of the tyrants sitting on their thrones in the "Black House", or, failing that, at least to force them to submit to its designs, as the "Black House" determines the direction, substance, purpose and effect of the imposition of its will. Thus, it hopes, that the whole world will become America's slaves and free men will be weakened and defeated.

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Iraq understood this and knew that free men were to be prevented from doing anything about the oppression which America was determined would be the fate of all mankind. For this reason, Iraq has developed a very deep, meaningful and selfless humanitarian spirit, which God wants as a blessing for its people and for the nation: a living thing, a cornerstone of humanitarianism, which shores Iraq up in its fight against injustice and the unjust, so that, in the Great Jihad, the standard of the Almighty God will be raised on high for all to see, however close or far the vantage point. Iraq is right to rise up against the crazed American bull, which threatens to destroy the whole world and itself with it. As the victim of injustice, Iraq has stood up to the tyranny of American hegemony, with the help of the Merciful God. It is this knowledge and insight, which has helped deepen and strengthen the steadfastness of the Iraqi people with every step that the American tyrant takes against Iraq. Iraq lives under the yoke of this injustice in the hope that the peoples and nations of the world will come to understand what is happening, or, at least, that the leaders of those nations will begin to feel some shred of responsibility for safety and security, for right and wrong, for injustice and the unjust, for justice and the victims of injustice, and for tyranny and the oppressed. But what hurts Iraq most of all is the fact that the American tyrant is still intent on perpetuating the criminal sanctions, under the pretext that it was the Security Council that decided they should be imposed. We all know the circumstances surrounding the adoption of those resolutions, which contain not a single positive element and which are totally without justification. Their purpose is to hurt the Iraqi people and to force the Security Council to remain the pawn of a single member, assisted by the old imperialist devil, the English policeman. The Iraqis are hurt even more when they realize that you are not free to speak up and tell the sinner what he needs to hear about right and wrong. And so, he sinks further into the quagmire, until the only thing you can see is the top of his head, his ears and his eyes having already been covered over. It is painful to see the self-styled great Powers within the Security Council incapable of behaving in a responsible manner, in the true sense of the term, and in keeping with their membership of the Security Council. The thing that is most offensive is the haughty and arrogant manner in which America gets them to do its bidding. They plead with America to let them exercise their inalienable rights, as enshrined in the Charter. They ask for guidance or, at best, they negotiate from a position of weakness. And so, America can give or refuse its consent, modify or replace those rights, without feeling any shame or embarrassment about the consequences of its highhanded actions.

Mr. President and members of the Security Council, this is a shameful situation, but one which only strengthens our determination to resist, with the help of God, defending our rights as we walk the path of righteousness, knowing we are engaged in a Great Jihad to protect the rights of our people, our nation and humanity. We do not despair or despond, because we are convinced that the more you resort to brute force, the quicker you will slide into the abyss. The following are some examples of what we have been saying:

1. Eight years have passed and the sanctions have still not been lifted, nor has Security Council resolution 687 (1991), paragraph 22, been implemented, despite the fact that the so-called proscribed weapons and the means of their production have been destroyed and not a single one of the 397 inspection teams and monitoring units, which have carried out over 7,000 visits since

November 1991, involving some 3,200 inspectors, has been able to discover any evidence to the contrary. We are convinced that the members of the Security Council, particularly the permanent members, have failed to acknowledge this established fact with the necessary forcefulness and determination, because they fear America's anger and lack the power to implement paragraph 22 and lift the sanctions. Instead, they leave the matter unresolved, no decision is taken either way and it is all put off until a later date.

2. The areas designated by the 32nd and 36th parallels, imposed on the North and South of Iraq, and interference with Iraq's internal affairs are in contravention of Security Council resolutions, despite America's claims that they are the result of Security Council decisions. None of the other members of the Security Council has been able to reproach America and the United Kingdom, their fellow members and permanent members of the Council, for the aggressive attacks they have both made on the sovereignty and integrity of Iraq and to insist that they change their behaviour.

3. The presence of naval fleets and air forces in and around the Arab Gulf has all the appearance of an occupation. The various excuses used to justify this situation are constantly changing, so that a new and differently coloured veil can be donned each time. The purpose behind it all is to colonize the region, taking control of its oil reserves, placing the world in the grip of a new imperialism allied to Zionism and threatening Iraq and the other peace-loving nations of the Gulf.

4. Double standards are used in dealing with the Arab nation and the Islamic world. The Security Council has failed to implement its resolutions concerning Palestine and other issues and has failed to keep the promises made to certain Arab States during preparations for the aggression by the 30-power alliance against Iraq. The Zionist entity (Israel) has been given a free hand to pick fights with and threaten and use violence against the Palestinians, Lebanon, Syria and other Arab States.

5. Butler, the head of the so-called Special Commission, has not been replaced, despite the fact that every statement and claim that he makes has been shown to contain unfounded accusations and blatant lies. He has failed to present an accurate account of the progress made, so that the Commission can proceed as it should, dealing with the disarmament issue on the basis of objective criteria and ensuring that the Commission is truly impartial. This would offer a glimmer of hope that the members of the Security Council would shake off the paralysis and inertia which seems to have afflicted so many of them.

Our approach may not be conventional, particularly at a time when many leaders, as opposed to peoples, believe that it is America that decides on matters of life and death. However, we believe that God alone decides these things and that He bestows great qualities on those who speak the truth and who defend Him in this world and the next. American policy is naught but that of a castrated bull. Soon, it will fall into the abyss. The people's is a noble cause. On the Last Day, the sinner will be burned for his sins and the standard of the Almighty God will be hoisted high, fluttering in the breeze, while the voice of good will prevail over evil in all corners of the universe. And, as

the Prophet said: whosoever of you sees a reprehensible action, let him change it by his hand, and if he can not do that, then by his tongue, and if he can not that, then by his heart. This is the strongest faith.

In saying these things, some of which may even hurt your feelings, we do not seek to imply that any of you is lacking in human feeling, particularly as our only wish is to show greater respect for your peoples and your nations. For, as it says in the Holy Qur'an, in the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate:

> "O mankind! Lo! We have ... made ye nations and tribes, so that ye may know one another. Lo! the noblest of you in the sight of Allah, is the best in conduct." (Qur'an, 49:13)

Rather, we have sought to draw your attention to facts which demonstrate both the savagery of some barbaric members of the Security Council and the weakness of others, or the inability of some of those involved in these matters to understand and use their power as they should. We want to convey the following message in the strongest possible terms: as it says in the Holy Qur'an, in the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate:

> "Sanction is given unto those who fight because they have been wronged; and Allah is indeed able to give them victory." (Qur'an, 22:39)

The fact that the Iraqi people, after eight years, see not the slightest chance of the sanctions being lifted, despite all the sacrifices they have made in cooperating with the Security Council and the Special Commission, will have grave consequences.

Despite all this, it is our moral, constitutional and humanitarian responsibility to wait and see how the Security Council will respond to this letter of ours. The Arab nation and glorious Iraq, which have withstood and defeated all the old colonial imperialists, as well as the invasions of the Mongols and the Tatars, are strong enough to defend their security, rights and sovereignty.

Every dog has its day ...
The unjust will see how fortunes can be reversed ...
God is Great ... God is Great ...
May the despicable ones be reviled!